

1 **CLAIMS**

2

3 1. A computer-executable method, comprising:

4 receiving an indication of a change to an attribute of a first external object
5 in a first namespace, the change including a reference to a second external object
6 in the first namespace;

7 identifying a first central object in a second namespace, the first central
8 object corresponding to the first external object in the first namespace;

9 identifying a second central object in the second namespace that
10 corresponds to the second external object in the first namespace;

11 identifying another external object that depends on data stored in
12 association with the second central object in the second namespace; and

13 propagating the data to the other external object.

14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 2. The method recited in claim 1, wherein the indication of a change
2 comprises a notice that the reference to the second external object was added,
3 modified, or deleted.

4

5 3. The method recited in claim 1, wherein identifying the first central
6 object in the second namespace comprises evaluating correlation information that
7 correlates objects in the first namespace with objects in the second namespace.

8

9 4. The method recited in claim 3, wherein the correlation information
10 comprises a persistent data store that associates central objects in the second
11 namespace with external objects in other namespaces.

12

13 5. The method recited in claim 4, wherein the association comprises a
14 link between a unique identifier for each central object in the second namespace
15 and unique identifies for each external object.

16

17 6. The method recited in claim 5, wherein the unique identifier
18 comprises a globally unique identifier.

19

20 7. The method recited in claim 4, wherein the persistent data store
21 comprises a table.

22

23 8. The method recited in claim 1, wherein the second namespace
24 comprises a metadirectory.

1 9. The method recited in claim 1, wherein each object comprises an
2 entity.

3
4 10. The method recited in claim 9, wherein each entity comprises a
5 unique identifier that is immutable and a name.

6
7 11. The method recited in claim 10, wherein the name is mutable.

8
9 12. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable
10 instructions for performing the method recited in claim 1.

11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 **13.** A computer-executable method, comprising:

2 propagating a reference change from a first object in a first namespace to a
3 related second object in another namespace by:

4 correlating the first object to a central representation of the first object;
5 identifying another central representation corresponding to a referent of the
6 reference;

7 identifying another object in the other namespace, the other object being
8 associated with the other central representation and depending on data stored in
9 association with the other central representation; and

10 providing the data to the object.

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 **14.** The method recited in claim 13, wherein the data is formatted in
2 accordance with the other object.

3

4 **15.** The method recited in claim 13, wherein the first object and the
5 other object comprise entities having an immutable characteristic.

6

7 **16.** The method recited in claim 15, wherein the immutable
8 characteristic comprises a globally unique identifier.

9

10 **17.** The method recited in claim 15, wherein correlating the first object
11 to the central representation comprises identifying a link between the immutable
12 characteristic of the first object and the central representation.

13

14 **18.** The method recited in claim 17, wherein identifying the other object
15 in the other namespace comprises identifying a second link between an immutable
16 characteristic of the other object and the other central representation.

17

18 **19.** The method recited in claim 13, wherein the central representation
19 comprises an aggregation of information from the first object and the other object.

20

21 **20.** The method recited in claim 13, wherein the central representation
22 and the other central representation reside in a metadirectory.

23

24 **21.** A computer-readable medium having computer-executable
25 instructions for performing the method of claim 13.

1
2 **22.** A computer-executable method, comprising
3 propagating a name change of a referent in a reference field of a first object
4 in a first namespace to a related second object in a second namespace by:
5 correlating the referent to a central representation of the referent;
6 identifying another object associated with the central representation; and
7 propagating the name change to the other object.
8

9
10 **23.** The method recited in claim 22, wherein correlating the referent to
11 the central representation is performed using an immutable property of the
12 referent.
13

14 **24.** The method recited in claim 23, wherein the immutable property of
15 the referent comprises a globally unique identifier.
16

17 **25.** The method recited in claim 23, wherein the immutable property of
18 the referent is persisted as correlation information.
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1
2 **26.** A computer-readable medium having computer executable
3 components comprising:

4 a system that propagates a change to a reference in a first object in one
5 external namespace, wherein the reference refers to a second object in the one
6 external namespace, the first object and the second object each having an
7 associated central representation in a central namespace, the change being
8 propagated by a component configured to evaluate an association between the
9 central representation of the second object and the second object in the one
10 external namespace to identify a third object in a second external namespace, the
11 component being further configured to pass the data to the third object.

12
13 **27.** The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the component
14 is further configured to evaluate the association between the central representation
15 of the second object and the second object by identifying a link between an
16 immutable characteristic of the second object and an immutable characteristic of
17 the central representation.

18
19 **28.** The computer-readable medium of claim 27, wherein the component
20 is further configured identify the third object in the second external namespace by
21 identifying a link between an immutable characteristic of central representation
22 and an immutable characteristic of the third object.

23
24 **29.** The computer-readable medium of claim 28, wherein the immutable
25 characteristics comprise globally unique identifiers.

1
2 **30.** A computer-readable medium having computer-executable
3 components, comprising:

4 A graphical user interface for creating a configuration file, the user
5 interface including:

6 a first area for identifying a central attribute, the central attribute residing
7 within a central entity;

8 a second area for identifying an external attribute, the external attribute
9 residing within an external entity, the central entity and the external entity being
10 correlated; and

11 a third area for identifying a direction of flow of data between the central
12 attribute and the external attribute.

13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

31. The computer-readable medium of claim 30, wherein the third area comprises at least two options, an option to flow the data from the external entity to the central entity or to flow the data from the central entity to the external entity.

32. The computer-readable medium of claim 30, wherein the user interface is further configured to generate a configuration file embodying information provided by a user of the user interface, the information being based on a selection of the direction of flow of data and the identified central and external attributes.

33. The computer-readable medium of claim 32, wherein the configuration file comprises an extensible markup language file.